

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Shipping

- How are suspected Ebola or any other high consequence pathogen samples shipped?
 - MDH Labs have put together resources for these pathogens. See the MDH High-consequence Pathogen website [here](#).
- What are Category A and Category B materials/substances?
 - Category A substances are those that are transported “in a form that, when exposure to it occurs, is capable of causing permanent disability, or life-threatening or fatal disease to otherwise healthy humans or animals”.
 - Category B is defined as “an infectious substance not in a form generally capable of causing permanent disability or life-threatening or fatal disease in otherwise healthy humans or animals when exposure to it occurs”. This includes Category B infectious substances transported for diagnostic or investigational purposes. See ASM [Guidelines](#) and [IATA regulations](#) for further info.
- What type of training and or certification is required to ship presumptive select agents?
 - CDC provides training on shipping biological materials on their training website ([Packaging and Shipping Div. 6.2 Materials](#)). ASM recommends formal training, hands-on demonstrations, and safety and security training for all laboratorians who ship biological specimen. An individual must be a certified Category A shipper in order to ship Select Agents or a certified Category B shipper in order to ship suspected Select Agents
 - ASM provides [guidance](#) for institutions to formalize their training and certification programs. Records of training and certification should be maintained by each institution.
- Who needs to be contacted prior to shipping any suspected Select Agent to the MDH Laboratories Administration?
 - The MDH Lab Administration MUST be contacted before any suspected Select Agent materials can be shipped to MDH Labs. Contact information is available on the Isolate/Specimen Shipping Policy and associated forms, provided by the [OLEPR](#).